



**Sen.  
Ken Jacobsen**



**Rep.  
Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney**



**Rep.  
Jim McIntire**

## 46th District Legislative Report

Fall 2001

Dear Neighbors,

Our world changed dramatically September 11.

As we respond to the tragic losses of life and the impacts on our day-to-day lives, there's a very real sense that we're all in this together—one community—where people care about one another, watch out for one another, and support one another.

Even though these are serious and challenging times for our state and our nation, we remain confident that we will overcome these challenges by joining together in the spirit of unity.

Some of the specific challenges we are facing here in Washington include a slowing economy, a growing traffic problem, increased security concerns and a significant budget shortfall.

We will focus our efforts on:

- Creating opportunity in every corner of the state, from Aberdeen to Zillah, because every worker deserves a shot at the American Dream;
- Unclogging traffic gridlock, which will also create 14,000 jobs—and give people more time with their families instead of staring at bumpers;
- Building safer communities so that no senior fears walking downtown and no parent worries about their child walking to school; and,
- Minimizing the impact of budget cuts on children, schools and seniors.

Facing up to these challenges will take strong leadership and a willingness to make tough decisions. It will also take a lot of good ideas.

Shortly after the start of the session, we will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting. Some of the best ideas come from everyday citizens. Democracy isn't about governors, representatives, senators and what happens in debates about legislation. People place faith in democracy because it's about giving every citizen a say in the decisions that affect their family. Working together, anything is possible.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you in Olympia. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sen. Ken Jacobsen

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#### Committees

- Chair, Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines
- Environment, Energy & Water
- Higher Education
- Transportation

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- Co-Chair, Higher Education
- Appropriations
- Commerce & Labor
- Joint Legislative Committee on Economic Development

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#### Committees

- Vice Chair, Financial Institutions & Insurance
- Vice Chair, Capital Budget
- Appropriations



# Budget

Last summer, after intense debate, the Legislature passed a budget that supported public schools, improved services for children, funded salmon recovery, and continued our support of local governments, all without raising taxes.

This was one of the best budgets for public schools in decades. It provided \$393.3 million for the new Student Achievement Program and \$318.4 million for cost-of-living increases for K-12 staff, as called for by Initiatives 728 and 732 which were overwhelmingly supported by voters. The budget also provided \$82.5 million to continue the class-size reduction and extended learning components of the Better Schools Fund.

Higher education was another key area of the budget, which provided funding for 3,575 new enrollments at our colleges and universities, and \$17 million to provide exceptional high-school students with Promise Scholarships. To help Washington continue as a leader in the high-tech field, the budget invested \$8.3 million in new funding for a Technology Institute operating from the Tacoma branch of the University of Washington.



*"This was one of the best budgets for public schools in decades."*

However, the state is facing new challenges that most people couldn't have imagined when we passed the budget last spring. The economic impact of the September 11 terrorist attack has been dramatic, especially in the Puget Sound region where so much of our economy is tied to the aerospace industry.

By far, the biggest impact to the state will come from recent layoffs at Boeing. State economists are cautiously estimating that the elimination of 20,000 jobs at Boeing will cost the state \$600 million or more.

This comes at a time when the state is already facing lower revenue and increased expenses for schools, social service caseloads, and prison expenditures.

In response to these and other pressures, Gov. Gary Locke recently asked the state's largest agencies for suggestions on where their administrative costs and services could be cut or scaled back, anticipating an overall state budget shortfall of as much as \$1 billion.

## **Mark your calendar!**

**What: Town Hall Meeting**

**When: Saturday, February 2, 2002 at 10 a.m.**

**Where: Meadowbrook Recreation Center  
10517 - 35th Ave. NE  
(corner of 35th & 105th, near  
Nathan Hale High School)**

## Budget (continued...)

The biggest cuts will probably come from the Department of Social and Health Services, which would face about \$474 million in cuts. That means children's services and services for the disabled and elderly might be cut, and the state may need to roll back Medicaid eligibility, which had recently been expanded to include children from families making up to 2½ times the federal poverty limit.

The state may also have to cut about \$100 million of replacement money for

local governments hurt when voters reduced their car tab fees to \$30 a year in 1999, and another \$100 million in cuts from other state agencies including the Department of Corrections have been identified.

Basic education, including higher education, was exempted from the budget cutting exercise, although colleges and universities were asked to limit hiring, cut back on travel, and delay equipment purchases and new programs.



*“This session, we will attempt to minimize the impacts any cuts would have on public education, and the state’s colleges and universities.”*

This session, we will attempt to minimize the impacts any cuts would have on public education, and the state’s colleges and universities. And we will attempt to minimize the impacts any cuts would

have on public health, safety or human services.

For more information on the state budget, visit the Governor’s Budget & Policy web site:  
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/budpol/budpol.htm> ■

## Whose services could be cut?

Governor Locke’s recent budget cutting exercise showed how deeply a \$1 billion budget shortfall could impact the services many people depend on. Here are some of the reductions submitted by state agencies:

- **People living in poverty** Eliminate Medically Indigent (MI) and General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) services, which assist over 12,000 people annually.
- **Developmentally disabled** Eliminate eligibility for 2,797 people currently receiving services, family support services for the last 1,800 clients, and tenant support for people living on their own; reduce case managers and other staffing.
- **At-risk youth** Eliminate secure crisis residential centers and services for older adolescents; reduce prevention services for families in conflict; cut overnight youth shelters, street youth programs and living skills programs.
- **Aging adults** Eliminate services for 6,787 clients, in-home nursing services, and volunteer chore services.
- **Mentally ill** Eliminate services for people not on Medicaid.
- **Prisons** Eliminate post-prison supervision of many medium- to low and low-risk offenders.





# Higher Education

In this economic climate and in response to new demands—the increasing diversity of the population, demographic shifts, challenges facing public education, technological advances, changes in the economy and workplace, global competition, and the need for active engagement in democratic processes—it is critical that we continue to fully support higher education. Today's economy requires educated workers with analytical skill, technological proficiency and the capacity to think critically and independently.

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We must increase access to higher education, respond to current shortages in high-demand areas such as nursing, pharmacy, and technology, supply a well-trained/educated workforce, enable our institutions of higher learning to be competitive, recognize the importance of educating our diverse populations, and create a more integrated, seamless education system.



Funding higher education is a shared responsibility among the state, the students and the public colleges and universities. State funding should be sufficient to cover a quality education, and the costs to families should be predictable. The State Need Grant should be funded at a level to help low and middle-income families. Currently, middle-income families are burdened with the majority of debt for education costs. More scholarships aimed to provide greater assistance would relieve some of this burden.

We can do this by developing partnerships with business, industry, government, and education leaders to identify changing workforce needs and to generate models to respond rapidly to changing needs. These partnerships can also identify programs aimed at diversifying local and regional economies. Business and industry have

a stake in improving their local economies and can offer funding support for programs designed to respond to local needs and provide opportunities for internships to students.

We should also continue to expand training grants to community and technical

colleges that offer new vocational-technical training based on labor market demand, providing funding for programs that build "career ladders", providing additional funding for worker retraining programs and developing an educational endowment account and seeking support from business and industry that would be used to pay for programs designed to build local economies.

For more information about higher education in Washington state, visit: The Higher Education Coordinating Board web site <http://www.hecb.wa.gov>

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/> ■

## Congratulations! K-12 Awards of Reading Achievement

Three years ago, the Legislature set a goal for increasing fourth grade reading proficiency. The Legislature asked that schools reduce the number of students not meeting the reading standard by 25 percent.

According to the 2001 results of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), 640 schools and 172 districts around the state achieved this goal and have increased the number of students meeting the reading standard.

Eight schools in the 46th Legislative District met the new standards:

- Olympic View
- Bryant
- Laurelhurst
- Bagley
- View Ridge
- Rogers
- Wedgwood
- Sacajawea

Congratulations on your hard work and dedication. We'd like to thank the parents, teachers, staff and—most important of all—the students for making the grade.



# Transportation

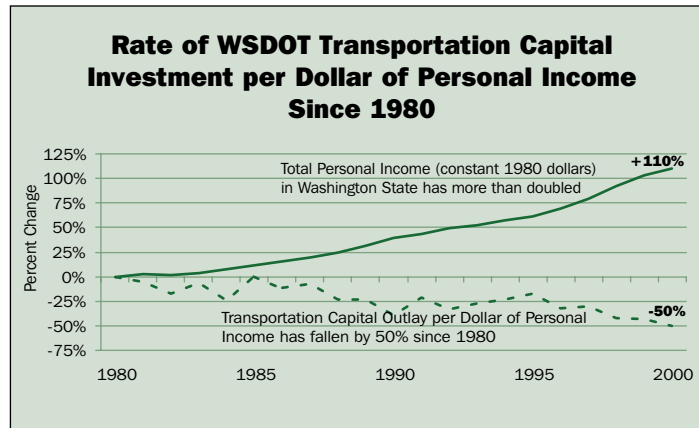
Our economy depends on the ability to get people to work and goods to market. As you know, Washington is in a serious transportation crisis. The largest single reason for this crisis is a trend, extending over at least 20 years, of not investing enough in our transportation system despite booming population growth and economic activity.

The measures of growth in demand are staggering. Consider these facts.

Since 1980:

- The state's population has grown 43 percent;
- Motor vehicle registrations have grown 57 percent;
- Vehicle miles driven in the state have grown 88 percent;
- Transit ridership has grown 75 percent; and
- The tonnage of goods and freight moved by road in the state has grown 116 percent.

Yet, even as more people filled our roads and highways with more cars, the state's investment in transportation fell. While the state's total personal income grew 110 percent (adjusted for inflation) since 1980, the capital outlay for transportation fell by almost 50 percent.



The largest single source of transportation revenue is the gas tax, which hasn't been raised in 10 years. If adjusted for inflation, our 23-cent gas tax would be 37 cents today. While the amount of money we are collecting is growing, the spending power of total collections is not much different from 1980. This is because of inflation, higher construction costs, and the fact that the increased numbers of people, cars and miles driven translate into higher highway maintenance costs and a greater need for new lanes and more roads.

## Here's what we're doing

The Legislature passed some key efficiency measures last year including:

- Streamlining the environmental permitting process.
- Allowing large projects to be designed and built by the same contractor.
- Right-of-way purchasing authority, allowing the

Department of Transportation to purchase land needed for construction early in the process, before prices skyrocket.

This session we will continue to search for other efficiencies to assure that we are spending our transportation dollars effectively.

Although the Legislature failed to reach consensus on a transportation investment package during the 2001 sessions, our priorities remain the same. We are

committed to long-term planning and solutions to provide congestion relief, safety improvements, viable and effective public transportation choices and allowing the state's regions to seek solutions to what they consider to be their biggest transportation challenges.

It's irresponsible to leave problems like traffic for our children to solve. Lawmakers must find the courage to compromise and get things done. We need to end the gridlock—which will also create 14,000 jobs—and let people spend more time with their families and less time on the roads, stuck in traffic. A long-term transportation plan will be an investment in our economy, our safety and our future.

For more information on transportation in Washington state, visit the WSDOT site: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/> ■

## Transportation Projects in the District

In the 46th Legislative District there are several current and upcoming transportation improvement projects you should know about:

- Designing an ADA accessible ramp from 1st Ave N to bypass the stairway now being used to get to 116th.
- Improving the seismic condition of selected bridges in the North Seattle Area.
- Resurfacing the bridge decks on I-5 at Northgate Way, 155th and 175th.
- Resurfacing 45th from Mary Gates Memorial Drive to Sand Point Way.
- Resurfacing the I-5 ramps to 110th and then from 123rd to 147th.
- Installing Traffic Safety Islands between 147th & 155th.



# Natural Resources

When most people think of Washington, they imagine a landscape of two extremes: Western

Washington, with its intense rainfall and lush rainforests; and Eastern Washington, with its arid farmland.

In reality, the state is made up of nine basic ecosystems, each one distinguished by unique soils, vegetation and wildlife. As Washingtonians, we celebrate this diversity with an array of outdoor activities ranging from bird watching to mountain climbing. We also embrace natural icons such as salmon and Orca whales.

Sadly, these icons are getting harder to find, and many of the state's recreational areas are being overused. Simply put, we're loving the outdoors to death, and the problem will only get worse as the state's population grows.

This session, we will start exploring new ways of utilizing and preserving the state's natural areas. We will focus on the state's nine ecosystems with the goal of creating a system that:

- Preserves the state's natural heritage. Biodiversity is central to our quality of life, so the first goal is to maintain healthy, diverse ecosystems.

- Develops cooperative partnerships. The future depends on our ability to build bridges between different interests.
- Focuses conservation on best opportunities. We want to focus on areas that provide the best opportunities to maximize diversity, minimize conflicts and avoid future threats.
- Prevents future crisis. The best way to avoid future endangered-species listings is by addressing the needs of species before they reach crisis levels.

Abandoning the tools we've developed to protect endangered species would be a

grave mistake. If, however, we're serious about preserving the outdoors we need to look at whole ecosystems, not just individual species.

Resource decisions will be made every day, with or without a blueprint for the future. By acting now, we can help ensure that the state's natural icons are embraced and enjoyed by many generations to come.

For more information on natural resources visit the Department of Natural Resources web site <http://www.wa.gov/dnr> or Department of Fish and Wildlife web site <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw> ■

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